

الخاص بأوضاع اللجئين الفلسطينيينفي سورية The situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria

2 Palestinians Detained after Being Rescued in Boat Tragedy off Tunisian Coast

- Palestinian Refugee Family Denied Humanitarian Asylum in Sweden for 7th Year
- Palestinian Refugees Refuse to Return to Syria over Abduction Concerns
- Palestinian, Syrian Families Fear Cholera Outbreak in Northern Syria Displacement Camps

Latest Developments

Two Palestinian refugees holding Syrian travel documents have been detained by Libyan authorities after they were rescued off the Tunisian coast of Jarjis.

Palestinian ambassador Ahmad AlDick said the two refugees are Moomen Mohamed Ali and Khaled Mohamed AlABtah.

Palestinian refugee Mohamed Majdoub Abdullah, a Palestinian-Syrian refugee, was found dead.

Muhannad Mohamed Atiyeh, displaced from Yarmouk Camp to Lebanon, has gone missing.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugee Mazen Abu Ajaj and his family have been denied asylum in Sweden, where they have been living for the seventh consecutive year.

Mazen, his wife, and six children are sheltered in Salvastor camp, located between Helsingborg and Angelholm, south of Sweden.

In an interview with Radio Sweden, Mazen said he has been dreaming of building a promising career in Sweden. However, linguistic discrepancies and complicated visa procedures have made his project difficult to materialize on the ground.

Mazen fled Yarmouk Camp, in Damascus. He had also lived in a Gulf country.

AGPS is deeply concerned over the fate of dozens of Palestinian-Syrian refugees after Sweden rebuffed appeals to grant those fleeing Gulf States asylum status.

Refugees who spend three to six month outside those countries are often systematically bereaved of their right to provisional stays, forcing dozens to wonder down and out in streets.

AGPS calls on the Swedish Migration Agency to reconsider its asylum knockback so as to preserve the lives of hundreds who have been living under the threat of torture, abduction, and homelessness.



AGPS urges Sweden to resume its positive and humanitarian responses towards Palestinian refugees, as has been the case over the past few decades. Sweden had warmly received thousands of asylum-seekers during the Gulf Wars and the Lebanese and Syrian turmoils.

In the meantime, more than eleven years into the Syrian conflict, thousands of Palestinian refugees continue to suffer protracted displacement. The Syrian regime has forcibly displaced thousands of Palestinians and Syrians.

Today, those who wish to return to the vastly devastated refugee camps in Syria fear they would be arrested or forced into military conscription.

Those who were involved in anti-government protests and deserted from military service say they cannot go back to the country for fear of being jailed or persecuted.

Human rights groups have documented several cases where Syrian intelligence branches have arbitrarily detained, disappeared, and/or harassed people in areas retaken from opposition groups. The abuse is taking place even when the government has entered into reconciliation agreements with the people involved.

Upon more than once occasion, AGPS has called on the Syrian government to disclose the fate of hundreds of Palestinians forcibly disappeared in state-run dungeons.

In a recent poll conducted by AGPS, hundreds of Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon said they cannot return to Syria over security concerns.

On Thursday, 11 March 2021, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the Syrian conflict to remind the international community of the gravity and magnitude of human rights violations in Syria, perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including killings, detention, enforced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment, sexual violence and rape, displacement, ethnic cleansing, persecution of minorities, and a dire humanitarian crisis.

In addition, the resolution emphasizes that Syria remains unsafe for refugee return, and calls on EU Member States to refrain from



depriving Syrian refugees of their protected status. MEPs urged the EU and Member States to continue supporting and providing humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and IDPs.

In the meantime, AGPS has warned of the spread of cholera in displacement camps set up north of Syria, as a result of malnutrition and poor immunity, especially among vulnerable people sheltered in substandard facilities.

The residents have expressed fear that cholera will turn into an endemic in a country where the infrastructure, health care facilities, and vital services have been ravaged.

AGPS calls on Syrian authorities to increase water supplies in the region and provide vulnerable families with potable water to help them combat the deadly virus.

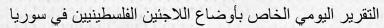
Last month, the UN humanitarian relief coordinator for the country warned that the official declaration of a cholera outbreak in the Aleppo region of Syria represents a serious threat to people in Syria and the whole Middle East region.

AGPS also calls for a swift and urgent action to prevent further illness and death. UN agencies and non-governmental organizations partners should coordinate with health authorities to ensure a timely and effective response.

The outbreak was declared on 10 September by the Syrian Ministry of Health, following 15 confirmed laboratory cases, including one patient death. A total of 936 cases of severe acute watery diarrhea were reported between 25 August and 10 September, which led to at least eight deaths.

The outbreak is an indicator of severe shortages of water throughout Syria, an issue AGPS has been sounding alarm bells on for some time.

While the Euphrates levels were dropping with drought-like conditions and a national water infrastructure damaged by 11 years of war, much of the already vulnerable population of Syria is reliant on unsafe water sources, which may lead to the spread of dangerous water-borne diseases, particularly among children.





Water shortages are forcing households to resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as changing hygiene practices or increasing household debt to afford water costs.

AGPS data indicates that 15 residents of AlNeirab Camp for Palestinian refugees, in the northern Syrian province of Aleppo, caught cholera.